

INSECT PESTS IN THE KITCHEN

Insects that live in our kitchens, flies, cereal products insects, cockroaches, and ants can cause a considerable amount of food to be unfit for human use. These pests may also spread disease germs which are capable of causing several human diseases.

These pests can be controlled.

Flies

House and stable flies breed in manure piles, decaying plant products, privies, and similar places of filth.

Sanitation measures in the control of flies

1. Remove manure piles frequently to prevent fly breeding.
2. Locate straw and hay stacks so there is drainage away from them rather than toward their bases.
3. Barnyards should drain well. Flies may breed in puddles containing manure, straw, or hay. Grade the yard so that it does drain.
4. Construct privies to prevent flies from breeding in them. Have a concrete vault, screen covering light and ventilation openings, a lid on the seat, and a self closing door. Seats and covers should be washed weekly with disinfectants which have deodorizing properties. Cover the privy contents with slack-ed lime to reduce odor and flies.
5. If it is necessary to have a slop pail for taking care of kitchen garbage, use the following suggestions for selecting one. Have a covered container, select one that is rust-resistant, and a suitable size for kitchen.
6. Dispose of dish water in a manner other than throwing it in the yard. Flies are attracted to dish water.
7. If you expect to put in a drain from the kitchen sink you will want a cesspool or a dry well. If you are installing a system of drainage from an indoor toilet you will need a septic tank.
8. Use screens on windows and doors of the house.

Chemical Control of Insects

Use of DDT in the control of flies in and around the house.

1. Apply a 5% DDT spray preparation to door and window frames and screens, inside and out, by means of a paint brush. In case small children may touch their tongues to screen doors, apply the DDT out of tongue reach.
2. A 5% DDT preparation may be sprayed on other areas outside the house where flies may congregate, such as ceilings of porches, outside of garbage cans, etc. Use at the rate of 1 pint to 125 square feet.
3. DDT must be applied about every 2 weeks outside of buildings where wind, rain, and sunlight decrease the period of its efficiency. One good application of DDT in the kitchen will control flies for at least 2 months.
4. Some precautions must be observed. Test the spray on inconspicuous wall space to see whether spray will damage wall covering.

Clean walls and ceiling to prevent streaking of dirt by liquid. Open all windows and doors so that the irritating fumes may be carried away.

Remove or cover all foods and kitchen utensils (high chairs and toys too)

Never spray a preparation containing an oil near open flames or hot stoves.

Control of Ants

Ants which invade the kitchen are worker ants which may be traced by the trail of ants to the nesting place.

Several methods of controlling ants can be carried out.

1. If the nest is located in the ground, scoop off the upper 2 inches of soil over the nest and pour 2-4 ounces of carbon disulfide into the nest entrances. Place the soil back and moisten it to retain the fumes of the carbon disulfide.
2. Apply a ring of 10% DDT dust around the entrance-exit hole of the nest. An infestation may be controlled by applying a DDT 10% preparation along the ant trail.
3. Poison bait can be an effective method of control where the nest cannot be located.
4. Ant traps are also useful in getting rid of a small infestation.

Control of Cockroaches

1. A 10% DDT dust may be applied in crevices and to known "runs". A 5% DDT in deodorized kerosene may also be sprayed beneath refrigerators, undersides of table tops, shelves, and other similar places.
2. Sodium Fluoride can be used unadulterated or mixed with equal parts of flour. Apply as suggested for DDT dust.
3. Pyrethrum dust may be used similarly to DDT and sodium fluoride.

Control of Cereal Products Insects (Weevils, bran bugs, mealworms)

1. Keep cereal products in tight containers.
2. A 5% DDT in deodorized kerosene may be sprayed on cupboard shelves, walls, and in crevices. Before spraying remove all foods and utensils so that none of the spray will contact them.

Control of Mosquitoes

The same methods suggested in the control of flies will also be effective with mosquitoes.

Control of Bedbugs

DDT has proved an almost perfect insecticide for bedbugs. By applying a 5% DDT oil solution to mattress and bedstead, a single treatment will "bugproof" the room for six months to a year. Spray the DDT into each crack and joint of the bed and into the springs. All surfaces of the mattress must be sprayed, especially the seams and folds. About 1/4 cup of 5% DDT should be sufficient for each bed. Let the bed dry thoroughly and then make up in the usual manner.

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